

SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS

CHAIR OF THE
BOARD

APPLICATION
PACK



LANGUAGE Performance, 2022.
Image: Sika Tro.

WELCOME TO SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS

**We believe in the power of dance for
artistic and social change.**

**We connect artists, neighbours and
audiences through investigative,
collaborative and inclusive activities
at our studios in South London and
beyond.**

ABOUT SDS

Siobhan Davies Studios has been part of the contemporary dance landscape since the 1980s. We are proud to be artist and female-led.

Our RIBA award-winning public arts building is located in the diverse and densely populated area of Elephant and Castle. We share our space with Independent Dance, our consortium partners in Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

At our studios, we run activities that welcome people to be together in ways that prioritise sharing and collaboration. We host social gatherings, spaces to co-work and create, classes for all abilities, performances, talks and free exhibitions.

Since leadership changes in 2021, our programme has been shaped by, and centres, people who have experienced marginalisation, displacement, exclusion and violence. We continue to address omnipresent oppressive structures and narratives, actioning anti-white supremacist ideologies to change our internal working structures and questioning the relevance of our public activities.

We believe that making time and space to dance and move is inherently political and offers tools to exist in the world. It encourages human contact, connection, self-expression and the negotiation and sharing of space.

We are committed to our social responsibility as a public charity and arts organisation. We know we are imperfect. We value being adaptable and we question how we work on a daily basis.

If you would like this pack in
another format please email
melissa.baxter@russam.co.uk

HOW WE WORK

Our work and thinking are shaped by three principles: people, place and legacy.

We work alongside **dance artists and people from underrepresented communities in our local area**, believing that dance is an artform that speaks to many.

We want to be shaped by **our home of Elephant and Castle** and to be welcoming and relevant to local and artistic communities.

We believe **the work that we're doing is not just for now**, but for seven generations ahead. We are responsible for the long-term impact on where we work and who we work with.

These three principles are embedded across three strands of activity:

Both/And

Local activities that focus on well-being, creativity and coming together.

- LANGUAGE POWER FEAR EMOTION community performance projects.
- Seasonal celebrations for our artistic and local communities.
- Open classes for adults and children.
- Weekly sessions at our neighbouring school.
- NEXT/NAC. A choreography course for 16-24 yr olds and alumni.
- Survivor-led movement and dance workshops for Latinx Women and children.

Beyond SDS

Performance and research projects with UK and International partners.

- CONTINUOUS. A four-year partnership with a UK network of arts organisations, bringing live dance into gallery spaces.
- NEUROLIVE. A five-year project bringing science and dance together to investigate liveness, with Goldsmiths, UCL and Max Plank Institute for Empirical Aesthetics
- MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional Pathway. Accredited course with Independent Dance and Trinity Laban.

Artists Alongside

Supporting sustainable artistic practice.

- Artist Archive. An annual programme challenging what an archive can be and who gets to have one
- Town Square. Communal and shared spaces for dancing, co-working, discussion, reflection and skill-sharing.
- Workshops for professional dance artists focusing on sustainable dance and choreographic practices and well-being.
- Subsidised space.
- SDS Hosting. Studio sharings, performances and screenings of artist's work.

Installation of 'The Tale of Two Institutions' as part of
Valerie Ebuwa's Material Archive: ValUE, 2022.
Part of Artist Archive 22-23. Image: Rohanne Udall



The objective of the Board of Trustees is to provide wide-ranging guidance and support to the organisation, using collective experience and expertise to help successfully deliver our programme of work. The SDS Board of Trustees currently has eight members.

We are recruiting a Chair to lead the organisation. The new member of the team will join SDS at an exciting time, under the current leadership phase headed up by Co-Artistic Directors Annie Pui Ling Lok and Kat Bridge.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking a Chair of the Board to provide support and advocacy, using their experience and expertise to help us deliver our work.

EXPECTATIONS

- Chair board meetings and encourage contribution from others
- Attend our events to maintain a connection with our work
- Offer timely feedback when requested
- Advocate for the organisation
- Attend other occasional meetings with staff and trustees as required

BEING ON OUR BOARD

- We have four evening meetings and one Away Day each year
- Appointment is for a three year term, renewable upon re-election. Ideally the Chair will serve a minimum of two terms.
- This is a voluntary (unpaid) position, but we can reimburse expenses to help you to attend meetings (e.g travel), as well as make contributions towards access costs
- Board papers are sent out a week in advance which include:
 - Minutes of the previous meeting
 - Reports on activity from SDS staff
 - Management accounts and budgets
 - Papers or policies relating to specific agenda items.
- Training can be provided, as required.

THE ROLE OF THE CHAIR

PERSON SPECIFICATION

A Chair will be:

- Inspired by the work, vision and values of SDS
- Experienced in, and enthusiastic about, collaborative working
- Ready to challenge and evolve our social and environmental responsibilities as an arts organisation
- Able to bring fresh thinking and knowledge about arts organisations and governance
- Knowledgeable about underrepresentation in the arts and culture sector
- Able to ensure trustees with less experience are contributing and heard.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Chair will:

- Advocate for the organisation in our artistic and local contexts
- Oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, with Board, Directors and Team
- Be a critical friend and provide support to the Co-Artistic Directors and Executive Director
- Support new ways of thinking and embed the collaborative approach of SDS at Board level, leading by example through inviting discussion, challenge and change.
- Ensure organisational compliance and responsible governance, supporting trustees to take full part in governing SDS
- Work with the Treasurer and Executive Director, to take responsibility for the financial performance of Siobhan Davies Studios. This may include representing the organisation to Arts Council England and other high-level funders as required.
- Chair Board meetings, working with the Directors to set the agenda and share information with trustees.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

TERMS OF THE ROLE

- This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses can be claimed
- Appointment is for a three year term, renewable upon re-election. Ideally the Chair will serve a minimum of two terms.
- We encourage a commitment of up to 1 day a month, to include four early evening meetings and one Away Day, plus time to prepare for meetings, provide advice and attend events.

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to be considered for the role of Chair, please provide us with:

- An up to date CV with details of two referees
- A Supporting Statement, telling us about yourself, why you would like to be involved with SDS and how you can help us with our work.

Closing date:

Monday 19th February 2024

Interviews with SDS:

Week commencing 11th March 2024

All applications should be sent to applications@trustees-unlimited.co.uk

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

We promise you will:

- Receive a confirmation that your application has been received
- Receive a notification if your application does not make the shortlist

If you are invited to the next stage and meet members of the team and Board, we will:

- Ask if you have any access requirements that we can support you with ahead of the meeting
- Give you an outline of what to expect at any meetings or interviews
- Send you a response, regardless of your interview outcome

We look forward to receiving your expression of interest and thank you again for your interest in our organisation.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING BUT HAVE SOME QUESTIONS?

We recognise you may want to know more after reading the role description and person specification.

If you would like to have an informal conversation with about the role, please contact Melissa Baxter on 07789 985229 / melissa.baxter@russam.co.uk.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

To help us monitor our equal opportunities policy, we would be grateful if you could complete the equal opportunities monitoring portion of the application form. When your application is received, this form is removed and is not used during the short-listing process. The information submitted is kept in the strictest confidence, following data protection requirements, and will only be used to monitor and analyse the progress of the organisation's equal opportunity policy.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Siobhan Davies Studios is an employer, a provider of services, a member of numerous communities and a purchaser of goods and services. Within this context, the organisation does not make any assumptions about the physical, social or cultural background, or other protected characteristics of its audiences, service users, actual or potential employees, collaborating artists, partners or service/goods providers. We recognise protected characteristics as being: race, ethnicity, gender or gender reassignment, marital status, parenthood, age, class or socio-economic status, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief

With due regard to the Equality Act 2010, Siobhan Davies Studios is committed to:

- the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act by ensuring that that no potential or actual employee, recipient of the organisation's services or participant in the organisation's activity, receives less favourable treatment on the

grounds of any protected characteristic, or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

- advancement of equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not by ensuring the widest possible access to the organisation's artistic work, as well as its facilities and services and within its workforce, ensuring that selection criteria and procedures for recruiting new employees or participants in the organisation's activity be such that individuals are selected and treated on the basis of their relative merits and abilities.

Siobhan Davies Studios has made a commitment that all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for this job will be invited to interview.

We are keen to ensure that everyone applying has an equitable experience when attending for interview. Should you have queries about, or wish to make us aware of any support required to attend an interview or work for us, please call please contact Melissa Baxter on 07789 985229 / melissa.baxter@russam.co.uk.

DATA PROTECTION

The information you give in your application will be used to create a shortlist for interviews. Any data about you will be held securely with access restricted to those involved in dealing with your application in the recruitment process.

Should any job opportunities arise in the future for which we think you may be suitable, we may send you application details about the vacancy. In addition, we may contact you in the future for feedback on our recruitment procedures.

